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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/562,439

05/18/2006

Keitaro Ado

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EXAMINER

TRAIL, ALLYSON NEEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/09/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/562,439	Applicant(s) ADO, KEITARO	
	Examiner ALLYSON N. TRAIL	Art Unit 2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/28/2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Request for Continued Examination filed August 13, 2010 and the Amendment filed June 15, 2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1-5 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu et al (2003/0233507), hereinafter Yu and Le et al (8,075,793), hereinafter Le.

With respect to claims 1 and 12, Yu teaches in paragraphs 0007, 0016, 0017, and figure 1, a card access apparatus that is adapted to be connected to a plurality of types of cards. Specifically Yu provides, "an electronic card with multiple interfaces." Paragraph 0017 teaches the apparatus including a plurality of connection points (CF interface connection port 11 and USB interface connection port 14). The points are adapted for the respective types of cards (specifically a CF memory card or a USB memory card – paragraph 0017). Paragraphs 0016-0017 further disclose a plurality of signal buses that connect the connection points to a card control unit; wherein when one type of the types of cards is connected to one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, at least one of the signal buses connected to at least one of the connection points adapted for at least one other type of the types of cards is

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electrically isolated from the at least one of the connection points. Specifically Yu discloses that when the CF interface is active, the USB interface is automatically off-line such that both interface signals will not interfere with each other. Further disclosed is a CF interface connection port 11, a CF interface 12, a card loading detection device 13, an USB interface connection port 14, a first switch device 15, a second switch device 16, an interface signal converter 17 and a CF memory 18. The CF interface connection port 11 and the USB interface connection port 14 are provided to plug the memory card into the CF or USB interface slot of an electronic device, such as a PC 19 (Personal Computer). When the CF interface connection port 11 is connected to the PC 19, the card loading detection device 13 detects the connection status and outputs a control signal to turn off the first and second switch devices 15 and 16, so as to isolate the USB interface connection port 14 from the interface signal converter 17 and the CF interface connection ports 11, thereby preventing the USB signals from interfering with the CF interface 12, allowing accurate data transfer to/from the CF memory 18.

With respect to claims 2, 3, 8, and 9, Yu discloses in paragraph 0017 an isolator that is configured to electrically isolate the at least one of the signal buses connected to the at least one of the connection points adapted for the at least one other type of the types of cards from the at least one of the connection points. Paragraph 0008 discusses that when the one type of the types of cards is not connected to the one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in an open state. Yu further discloses in paragraph 0008 that when the

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one type of the types of cards is connected to the one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in a closed state.

With respect to claims 4 and 5, Yu discloses in paragraph 0017 the isolator realizes a separate circuit with respect to the card control unit. Specifically, the card loading detection device 13, detects the connection status and outputs a control signal to turn off the first and second switch devices 15 and 16, so as to isolate the USB interface connection port 14 from the interface signal converter 17 and the CF interface connection ports 11. Paragraph 0019 and figure 2 disclose the circuit of the card loading detection device 13.

With respect to claims 10 and 11, refer to Yu's paragraph 0019.

Yu's teachings above fail to teach a single slot adapted to accommodate the plurality of types of cards as well as an opening part having connectors that can handle the plurality of cards.

With respect to claims 1 and 12, Le discusses in column 7, lines 7-28, an apparatus that is capable of receiving a number of different types of memory cards using a single slot. The described apparatus supports the mechanical and electrical interfaces necessary for receiving a memory card of a variety of different formal using a number of different digital devices and then transferring the data to a computing device using a single adapter. Additionally, figure 2 illustrates an adapter 10, which includes a single slot 13 for receiving a variety of different types of flash memory cards 8. Lastly, Le discloses in column 3, line 65 – column 4, line 3, that unlike some conventional adapters that support different types of flash memory cards by making use

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of multiple slots, the adapter 10 has a single slot 13 that is structured to prevent a user from incorrectly inserting flash memory cards 8.

In view of Le's teachings, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the single slot adapter taught by Le as the card acceptor in the card access apparatus taught by Yu. One would be motivated to use a single adaptable slot in order to save space by only needing one slot instead of multiple slots and as is disclosed by Le, having only one slot prevents a user from incorrectly inserting flash memory cards.

4. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu in combination with Le and in further view of Hirai et al (2002/0046877), hereinafter Hirai.

Yu's teachings in combination with the teachings of Le are discussed above. Additionally with respect to claims 6 and 7, refer to Yu's paragraph 0019.

The combination however fails to specifically teach one of the types of cards including a metal plate having an insulator coating applied thereon.

With respect to claim 6, Hirai discloses in claim 4 that the CF card includes a cover plate having an insulating film applied to its inner metal surface.

In view of Hirai's teachings, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a CF card taught by Yu and include a metal plate having an insulator coating as is taught by Hirai. The CF card disclosed by Hirai is a conventional card and therefore one would be motivated to use such a card as it is widely available and inexpensive.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to **[allyson.trail@uspto.gov]**.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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/Allyson N. Trail/
Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
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September 7, 2010